

A NEW LARVA OF
OESTRUS (GASTROPHILUS)
FROM ZEBRAS

BY

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PLATE XX

The species which forms the subject of the present paper is described from four batches of bots, three of which were collected from zebras in Rhodesia, by Professor Yorke, in 1912. The fourth consignment was taken from the stomach of a zebra, which was sent to one of the authors by Professor F. T. Hobday, in February, 1925. All three lots of Professor Yorke's material contained in addition specimens of *O. pecorum* Fabr., and *O. ternicinctus* Ged., two lots contained also larvae of *O. gedoelsti* Rod. and Beq., and Brauer's No. 2 and No. 3 *Oestrus* larvae from *Equus bohmi*, and in the stomach of Professor Hobday's zebra were found numerous larvae of *O. ternicinctus*, and also specimens of *O. gedoelsti* and Brauer's No. 2 larva from *Equus bohmi*.

The specimens here described occurred in comparatively small numbers, but showed no variation in the important characters which distinguish them from the larvae of the known species of *Oestrus*.

Mr. W. H. Potts, B.A., formerly of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, who examined the material before leaving for Tanganyika Territory, in 1925, came to the conclusion that it was quite distinct, and we have no hesitation in describing it as a new species.

Third stage larva :

Body cylindrical, flattened ventrally, the anterior end sub-conical, the posterior rounded or somewhat truncate ; the segments increasing in width from before backwards to the eighth and ninth ; the tenth and eleventh decreasing slightly and the twelfth abruptly narrower than the preceding. Third segment markedly projecting dorsally. Colour of integument varying ; whitish, creamy, ochraceous or pale ochraceous-brown. Spines terminating in a fine point.

Length : 13 to 15 mm. *Greatest width :* about 6 mm.

Spinulation. Ventral series : third and fourth segments unarmed ; fifth to ninth segments each with a single uninterrupted row of spines ; tenth segment with a single row of spines, somewhat variable in number, but usually about eight, the distance between the median pair greater than that between other adjacent pairs ; eleventh segment variable, either : unarmed ; with a reduced number of spines, widely interrupted ; or with a complete row. *Dorsal series :* third and fourth segments unarmed ; fifth to ninth segments with a single interrupted row of spines ; tenth segment unarmed or with a few (about one to four) spines at each side ; eleventh segment unarmed. *Lateral series :* variable and somewhat irregular (see Pl. XX, fig. 3). No interruption between ventral and lateral series ; interruptions present or absent between dorsal and lateral series.

This larva is most closely related to that of *O. veterinus* Clark (*O. nasalis* Brauer) but differs markedly from it in the complete absence of spines on the third and fourth segments.

Co-types : Eight larvae taken from a zebra, Ngoa, N.E. Rhodesia, 26.v.1912, Professor Warrington Yorke, M.D. ; other material from zebras, Rhodesia, 23.iii.1912 and 20.v.1912, Professor Yorke, and from a zebra of the Burchell Group imported to England from Pretoria, Professor F. T. Hobday, C.M.G., F.R.C.V.S.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XX.

Oestrus meridionalis sp.n. ; third stage larva, enlarged seven times.

- Fig. 1. Dorsal view.
- Fig. 2. Ventral view.
- Fig. 3. Lateral view.



FIG. 1



FIG. 2

Photograph by Miss M. Brown

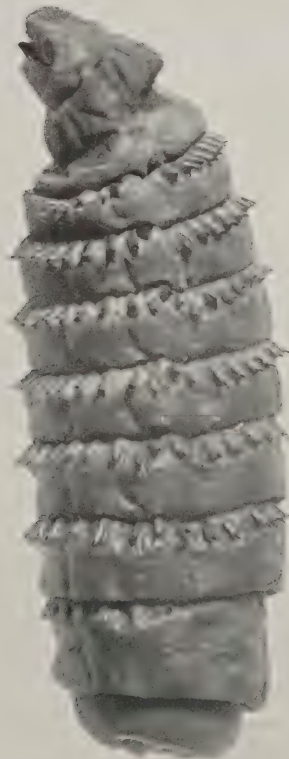


FIG. 3

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